

USSN: 10/777,452
Group Art Unit: 3744
Docket No.: 117P45USD2

Interview Summary

Applicants' attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of January 14, 2005. The personal interview occurred between the Examiner, Robin A. Sannes (representative for the Applicants), and Stephan M. Hubig (Applicant). A commercial embodiment of the subject patent application was demonstrated. Claims 1, 2, and 3 were discussed, and new claims 22 and 23 were discussed. The prior art references Haertle '387, Mizuno '813, Scepanski, and Hewitt et al. were discussed.

An agreement was made as reflected in the amended claims herein and as reflected in the Interview Summary completed by the Examiner on January 14, 2005.

Remarks

As indicated in the Office Action dated November 29, 2004, claims 1-21 are pending in the subject patent application.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haertle '387, and claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizuno '813. In accordance with the personal interview on January 14, 2005, claim 1 has been amended to overcome these rejections. Claims 12-13 have been amended for consistency with claim 1.

Claims 2-6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Haertle '387 or Mizuno '813 in view of Scepanski. Claims 3-6, 9, 11, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Haertle '387 or Mizuno '813 in view of Hewitt et al. Claims 7, 12, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Haertle '387 or Mizuno '813 in view of Scepanski as applied to claims 2-6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, and 21 above and further in view of Rutherford. In accordance with the personal interview on January 14, 2005, claim 3 has been amended to overcome these rejections. Claims 9-11 have been amended for consistency with claim 3.

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In accordance with the personal interview on January 14, 2005, claim 22 has been added to recite a substantial portion extending outward from the first side of the product carrier being exposed and unprotected thereby having direct contact with laundry within the dryer. Claims 23-26 have been added to depend upon newly added claim 22.

In accordance with the personal interview on January 14, 2005, claim 27 has been added to recite the solid fabric conditioner filling in the voids in the product carrier to securely attach the solid fabric conditioner to the product carrier and a substantial portion extending outward from the first side of the product carrier being exposed and unprotected thereby having direct contact with laundry within the dryer. Claims 28-31 have been added to depend upon newly added claim 27.

Claims 32, 34, and 36 have been added to recite that the fabric conditioner is a block of fabric softener. Claims 33, 35, and 37 have been added to recite that the fabric conditioner is a block of product selected from the group consisting of softeners, sanitizers, water repellants, deodorizers, bleaches, soil repellants, dye-transfer inhibitors, fiber protecting polymers, fiber smoothers, UV light absorbers, and anti-wrinkle agents.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 14, and 16-21 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 and 10-12 of U.S. Patent 6,779,740. Claims 7, 12, and 15 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 and 10-12 of U.S. Patent 6,779,740 in view of Rutherford. The obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been overcome by the terminal disclaimer filed herewith.

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Favorable consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned representative for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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